

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 4 and 6-9 are pending in the present application. Claim 3 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and Claims 6-9 have been amended by the present amendment without introducing new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 4 was rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as unpatentable over Claims 1 and 3 of U.S. Patent No. 6,371,198.

Addressing the above-noted double patenting rejection, that rejection is obviated by the present amendment as submitted with a Terminal Disclaimer over U.S. Patent No. 6,371,198. The submission of that Terminal Disclaimer is believed to obviate the above-noted double patenting rejection.

Further, Claims 6-9 have been amended to depend on Claim 4. By virtue of their dependencies on Claim 4, Claims 6-9 are believed to be allowable.

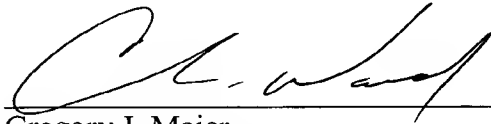
As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for formal allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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